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THREE Miſeries of Barbary:

Plague.
Famine.
Ciuill warre.

With a relation of the death of Maha-*met the late Emperour: and a briefe* report of the now preſent Wars betweene the three Brothers.

Printed by W. I. for Henry Gosſon, and are to be ſold in Peter noſter rowe at the ſigne of the Sunne.

To the Right Wor-

ſhipfull the whole Company of the Barbary Mer-*chants.*

Auing drawn certaine Collections together of ſome, the beſt and maine occurrents which haue now lately (and not many yeares paſt) hapned in *Barbary*; & they being digeſted into a Volume (although little for quantity, yet delightfull to be perufed for the raritye,) I thought they could not better be beſtowed, than vpon ſuch as holde commerce with that Countrey, and know the ſtate and condition of the people. Amongeſt which number I make bolde to preſent theſe my labors to you onely, becauſe you are all Brothers, and men that moſt worthily can iudge of the Relation, and the truth thereof. The chiefe and fartheſt point that my intention ſeeks to arriue at in this,

this, is to deſcribe the horrour and vn-heard-of miſery that hath falne vpon that Kingdome by a Plague: to the intent that by comparing our ſins with theirs (being altogether as greet if not greater) and the hand of mercy which Heauen hath ſtretcht forth ouer our Nation, aboue theirs, we may be allured to looke into our ſoules betimes, leaſt the like Viols of Wrath bee powred downe vppon vs. It is my loue that beſtowes this vppon you, which I pray receiue with ſuch good acceptation, as with my beſt affection it comes vnto you. And thus referring my ſelfe to your cenſure I take my leaue.

Deuoted yours,

Geo. Wilkins.

Barbary.

THis is a ſtory (like a briefe Chronicle) conteining various and much matter in few lines: It is but a little bottom of Tyme, which you may holde and hide in your hand, yet being vnrolled (to the length) it reacheth to the beginning of many yeares paſt. I would now muſt ſtand heere (as in a Map) for a Citty, and a few ſhorts for the Chart of a ſpacious Kingdome.

Underſtand therefore that Abdela the Emperor being dead: Muly Mahamet his Brother ſucceeded, and was crowned King of Barbary. No ſooner was this dignity conferred vpon him, but he reuenged himſelfe on thoſe that in Abdelaes raign loued him not, and therefore by their counſels did what in them lay, to draw his Brothers (the Emperors affection) from him, yea ſo far that they perſwaded either to haue his eyes put out, or be ſent to death: of theſe counſellours, three chiefe, Alcade Azus, Alcade Mulla, and Alcade Bardu, from two of which he commaunded their liues: but becauſe his ſtate needed the heads of more men to hold it vp, and for y^t he was not generally beloued of ye Nobility and ſome of the blood Royal: he gaue

Alcade

Alcade Azus his life, and of a prisoner and a Man in disgrace, advanced him up to higher honours then before; receiving him every daie into his bosome for his counsell: which he did the rather because he knew that Azus would bee provident and carefull to increase the Emperors Bittumell (that is to say) his treasury. Much and often was his mind perplexed with thoughts about settling his Empire; his cogitations fought within the Clues, when sometimes her would (in his owne private Judgment) make such a man fit to be of his secret and chiefest counsels, and sometimes another: this he would like to day, and to morrow utterly distast him.

At length he resolued to trust none of his owne Country-men, but lay his hart in the brest of one of his Elches, (that is to say, a Christian turned Moore) yet (upon sounder contemplation) him hee reiected too: he would put the healthy of so great a Kingdome into no such dangerous Physitians hands: for he beleeued that Mahamet (his GOD) would take all fauor from him if he should doe so: besides he that had forsaken his owne Law and religion, could not haue the temper of constancy, to serue one of a contrary religion; nay, how euer in out-ward shew, these Elches or Regadoes (quoth hee) seeme Saints, and holy men, to me they may prone Diuels, and hold it no conscience to betray my blood and Kingdome. Azus therefore was the man culled out from the rest, by the Emperor.

This

Barbary.

This Prince flourished in as great glory, as the greatest of his predecessors: the blessed fruites of sweete peace, tooke away the sowrenesse of any warre (either forren or domesticke) that was serued in against him: his subiects were infinite, his Cities filled with Nations: He had more Wiues then any of his fore-fathers: his Concubins were fairer and more in number; he was as happy as ever was any King in Barbary, in the flourishing multitudes of his people: and as infortunate as euer any before him, in beholding their misery. Fortune, twice had her pleasure vpon him, first in lifting him vppe hygh in her loue, lastly in pursuing him and his subiectes with her tyrany.

Many noble and notable occurentes, presented themselues to the eye and eare of the world, during his Raigne: of which to write as they deserue, were to adde a large Volume to the Chronicles of that Countrey. I will therefore (as one hauing been at a royall banquet) reserue some of it to my selfe, and bestow some vppon others, such as I thinke will be sweetest in going downe: of which take this as part.

It was in his time, when that great Armada, (that brought terror in her Wombe from Spaine) was delivered of it, in the narrow Seas of England. At the birth (but indeed the the buriall) of which inuincible Nauy, the

Spaniards that lay then in Barbary and attended on the Spanish Embassadour, beguiling themselues with a false rumor, that this land was conquered, prepared for triumphs, as (if their ioy had bin tamely begot) they had reason: But one Maister Arnold Tomson (an english Marchant) certifying to the Emperour the truth and certaine defeature of the Spanish Fleete: the English men that were there, hadde likewise leaue of Mahamet, to expresse their ioy in Bone-fires, and other triumphes; for the King did euer loue the Nation of our Countrey, and did many fauors to our Marchantes.

The English Embassadour lying in the same streete where the Spanish Embassador lay, and our Marchants gathering togither, determining to ride into the fielde, and there hauing put themselues into some gallant order, to come backe into the Citty, in a triumphant and ciuill manner, to doe honour to their Country for so happy and vn-heard-of a victory: behold, before the Spanish Embassadors gate (by which our Country-men determined on horsebacke to passe) stood a company of Spaniardes, (with some Moores whom they had hired) armed with pike and shot to stoppe their passage; betweene whom what happened, those english Marchantes that then were hurt, (of which maister Arnold Tomson was one) can if they be yet liuing testifie:

and

and for those that were then slaine out-right, the Emperour (in indignation) swore not onely that they who did execute this trechery vppon the english Nation, should haue Iron giuen them (that is to say, should haue their throates cut) but hee would also certifie the King of Spaine of this abuse: so willing was hee to doe Iustice euen to strangers.

Another accident (because it is worthy note for the example, and may be a warning to our Countrey-men) will I set downe: and this is it. An English man fallen out and stroke by his maister, desperately resolued (whilest the fire was in his bloud) to reuenge those blowes on his body, by giuing wounds to his own soule: and thereupon he presently went and denyed his religion, forsooke Christ to follow Mahomet; And from a Christian turned Moore.

It is the custome of that Countrey when any Man will do so, to obserue (amongst others) these ceremonies: It is signified to those Christians ẏ are in the Citty, Towne, &c. that such a one will be an Elke, or turne Moore, A certaine equall number therefore (aswel Barbarians as Christians) are assembled in a place fit for such purposes; one part sitting (like Iudges) on ẏ one side, the other, opposite directly against them: the Turne-coate iust in the middle of the roome betweene them, and in presence of both, he is there then demaunded,

whether he will deny the law of his owne religion and embrace theirs or no: It is offered vnto him his free liberty to take the one or the other: nay it is lawfull for those that sit there on the contrary part (being Christians) to vse all the power of Argumen^t to winne him from this delinquishment. Thus did they serue this man: thus was he three seuerall times, conuented before them: and three seueral times did he most stifly defend what he had done, and deste Christ: no Physicke of Spirituall counsell doing good vppon him, they gaue him ouer. But note the iudgment of that Captaine (the Lord of hoasts) whose colours of saluation he had forsaken, within a short time (after this Apostasy & rebellion of his soule) this Traytor to God, happened to kill a Man: for which fact hee was adiudged by the Ladies of that Country, not to loose his life, but (which was worse) to liue: But how to liue? As the first Murderer that euer drew bloud of Man: as Cayne liued, wandering vp and down, with none (on paine of death) to keep him company, but his owne thoughtes which were tenne thousand executioners; none to giue him bread, so that he fed vpon despaire: none to quench his thirst, so that he drunke the poison of an infected conscience, he knew he had killed a Man, and therefore euen Infidels abhorred him: he knew he had forsaken his Religion, and therefore Christians would not pitty him: In this wretched state he went vp and downe, in this misery he pyned, till hee dyed: let that death of his teach others how to liue.

But

But leauing this, let vs againe fixe our eyes vpon Mahamet the Emperor, who (thinking it would be as great a glory to him, to create others, Kings, as to be a King himselfe) did (by the aduice of his counsell, but most of all out of the working and height of his owne spirit) determine to diuide his large and fruitful Empire amongst his Sonnes.

Of all the Wiues and Concubins that this Emperor had, three onely, (aboue the rest) had a soueraignty ouer his amorous affections, and of those three, he did still prefer one before the other. Lilia Isa was the fairest, and her did he loue dearest: shee was empresse ouer the rest, yet were ỹ rest Queenes ouer others, shee had the supreame commaund of the Kinges house, and none commaund her but the King. Lilia Ageda was a Negro, yet had she a second place in his heart. Lilia Myriem had the third: of Lilia Myriem (being a blacke woman likewise) did hee beget a Son, called Muly-Shem, being one of the fairest Children that euer he had, but this Muly-Shem offring some offence to a youth that attended on him, was by him slaine. The young-man afterward (knowing the Emperours wrath) killing himselfe. Lilia Agede was mother to Muly-Beferris, and Muly-Sheck, (the youngest Brother:) Lilia Isa Mother to Muly-Sidan (the eldest.) Betweene these three were these late cruell warres in Barbary.

And thus did Mahamet make diuision of his Kingdome, which afterwarde bred diuision amongst his people, and set all in a Combustion to

Muly ſidan (who was giuen to Armes and to loue a Souldier) gaue he the Kingdome Tadula, and Taphalet: to Mulibeſarris (whoſe ſoule luſted after nothing but ſenſuall pleaſure) gaue he the Kingdome of Sus: to Muly-Sheck, the Kingdome of Fez: appoynting Muſtapha (that was borne a Chriſtian, and turned Moore, but a Souldier, and a Gentleman of a Noble Spirit) to attend on Sheck as his Guardian, becauſe he was but young.

Before we ſtep any farther, it ſhall not be amiſſe (becauſe I would draw this Barbary-picture, with as much life and delightfull colours as I could) to ſet downe a pretty combat betweene two of the Emperours Wiues, playd before the Emperour himſelfe. Thus it was: Mahamet ſitting one morning with Lilia Ageda (the Negro) by him, talking merily (for hee tooke pleaſure in her ſpeech, becauſe ſhee was wiſe:) In comes Iſa (his faireſt bedfellow) and ſeeing the Blacke-one ſo neere her beloued, ſhe bluſhed and ſhewed anger euen in her eyes, (for what Woman woulde not be angry to ſee another robbe her of the loue of an Emperour?) At length bowing to the earth, ſhe fell at the Kings feete, and with a pretty ſmile beganne to tell a tale of the Larke and the Crow: the ſhutting vppe of her morrall being, that the Larke was the Bird of the morning, and of the day, and therefore might be bold to challenge the mornings due, and all Rytes of the day; But the Crow was the Bird of the night, and had nothing to do with the morning.

The

The emperor vnderstanding her sweete witty bitternesse, that by the Larke shee ment her selfe, and by the Crow, Lilia Ageda (because of her blacknesse) was so delighted with the comparison, that hee gaue charge none should euer after presume to giue the Emperour his good morrowe, till Lilia Isa had bin with him, and thereupon was Isa called the emperors Larke, or his Bird of the morning.

Let vs loose one poynt more of our compasse, and sayle a little out of our intended way to finde out in what feare and awfull reuerence the subiects of this Kingdome hold the anger of their Soueraigne: to vnderstand which, receiue this only as a tast. One of the emperours officers of his Custome (whose name was Cidde Abdela Creme) being an olde Man, had one Sonne onely, (called Enhamet) whom he tendred as his life, being the hope and health of his age: him had the father put into his owne place: the young man comming in a morning betimes to the Custome-house, but the rest of the officers being not present, he could not enter (for, euery one hath a seuerall key, and vnlesse all be there together, not one can get in) he determined within himselfe to spend an houre (til the rest met) in reuewing the emperors pallace (where his Concubins liued) because he was told it was a rare and rich place, and that it was not lawfull without great meanes to enter. That report more inflamed his desire, insomuch that in the end (watching his time) by stealth he got in.

Where

where being, and staring vp and downe, it chanced that one of the Women saw him, who presently screeked out, and ranne crying, A man, a man: for you must note, that if any one of them spy a Man, (except the Eunuches that attend them) and doe not call for helpe, it is death to her: and what Man soeuer rudely presume to haue a sight of thē, it is death to him. It was knowne by inquiry, (vpon her noyse) that it was Enhamet the Customers Sonne, who had thus offended the lawes: the Emperor being giuen to vnderstand so much, made an oath he should dye for it. Immediately vpon this (by occasion of some busines) comes the olde Man (Enhamets Father) to the King, who supposing it hadde beene about his Sonnes pardon, and his indignation being now a little cooler) suddainely demaunded of him what that Man deserued, that durst breake into the place where his Emperours Concubins were: Cidde Abdela (not suspecting the offender) answered, that hee deserued the sharpest sentence of death, for so the Law would adiudge him. Be thou then (quoth the Emperor) thine owne Sonnes condemnation: As thou hast iudged him, so let it be. But the King beholding death sitting in the olde Mans face at that doome, grew pittifull, and (for loue he bare the Father) forgaue the Sonne, which mercy notwithstanding, Abdela Creme not truely laying holde of, but mistaking the Noble spirit of a Prince, and imagining that this fauor so strangely extended was but a snare to intrap his owne

fore

like, because offences of that nature were neuer be-
fore pardoned in any: home hee comes; with sor-
row in his afflicted looks, and his heart euer mur-
dered within him, by the cruelty of his owne
thoughtes: his Sonne demaunded the cause of
this so strange and suddaine distemperature, but
his Father giuing no answer, sends for cordes,
shewes them onely insteade of speech, and to
make this dumb Tragedy fall in the end, he cau-
seth him before his owne eyes to bee strangled:
great were the lamentations of the Sonne, and
aboundant were the teares he let fall to soften his
Fathers heart: a mighty conflict was there in the
poore old mans bosome, betweene naturall piety
to a Child, and naturall feare of a Soueraigne:
but the last of the two preuailed: and hauing be-
stowed vpon the dead body the ceremonies of the
graue, according to the custome of the Countrey,
hee caused the Act to bee registred downe for his
owne safety, alledging that howsoeuer the Em-
peror (when he heard this blacke and vnnaturall
deed reported) would happily bee moued vnto
wrath, yet inwardly he would be highly conten-
ted with it.

Mahamet being thus feared and loued of his sub-
iects, wanted nothing that (according to humane
Iudgement) could make a Prince happy: plea-
sure was his slaue and waighted on him whenso-
euer he lusted for her company: Riches flowed in-
to his houses of treasure in large & Goldē streams:
his Court was ful of counsellors, his Cittyes full

Merchants, his Castles full of souldiers: he was a mightie King himselfe, & had sonnes that were as mightie as her, their Dominions were ample, they were full of men, and full of all thinges that maintaine men. It seemed that the Father lost much of his imperiall state and dignitie, when hee placed his three sonnes (like three great lights) to shine equally in his kingdome, considering that all the beames of maiestie that came from them, might (if he had pleased) haue beene sent foorth from the centred glory of his owne head, but euen this borrowed reflexions of theirs, made his brightnes the greater: and his sonnes yeelding acknowledgement of all their royaltie to flow from him, did (like Riuers paying tribute to the Sea) seeme not a whit the lesse for such homage and fealtie.

Fortune hauing turnd the wheele of this Emperours fate along time with steddie hand, had now brought it about to the vppermost point & highest, on which she meant he should sitte: he should be no more her darling, and therefore shee tooke her fauours from him. Or to speake of a power that cõtrolls Fortune, and whose very finger throwes downe kingdoms to vtter confusion, or holdes thẽ vp in their greatnesse, whether the generall sinnes of the whole Nation deserued it, or whether the people were punisht for the particular faults of the king and his Courtiers, as many times it falls out, and as it hapned to the Grecians, for Quicquid delirant Reges plectantur Achini: or for what other faultes soeuer, the rodde of vengeance was made

ready,

readie: it is in man to thinke vppon and feare, but not to examine, yet sure it is, that as a fire catching hold at first but of some meane cottage, in some one end or corner of a Cittie, hath oftentimes (ere the furie of it could bee put out) swallowed vp in his flames, the goodliest and most beautifull buildings that stoode euen fardest out of reach, so did the clowdes of infection burst open their vaines, and let fall the poyson of them, on this kingdom of Barbary.

If euer the Plague in any place got his true name, there he had it. At the beginning it strooke (like an Arrowe) on the head but of one Citty, but in a short time after, it flewe from Cittie to Citty, and in the end stucke in the very hart of the whole kingdome. Insomuch, that Death came (like a tyrannous Usurper) to the Court gates, & threatned to depose the Emperour himselfe.

Hee that before sate in his throne of maiestie, greatly feared of other Nations round about him, and strongly garded by his owne, is on the suddaine daunted, and (beeing accounted one of the mightiest amongst the Kings of the earth) is ready to submit to him, with whom euen Infants doe euery howre fight hand to hand.

See the authoritie, fame and terror of that Inuader (Death) hee strooke but vp an Allarum in this Emperous Pallace, and the Emperour himselfe trembled through feare thereof: his conceites that stood before like so many aged Oakes, bowed presently to the earth like so many ranks of young

willowes: yet his Cities shooke at the voyce, no lesse then if it had beene at an Earth-quake. And so hardly did the pestilence pursue Mahamet, that he durst not sleep for it in one place twice together: euery night was he compelled (for safety) to flye vnto a contrary lodging.

As his Court remoued so did the plague: whersoeuer the one kept his standing house, there the other pitched vp his Pauilion as a proud and daring Challenger to all commers. Insomuch that sicknesse in the end (though weake of himselfe) wrastled with so many that were neere and about the Princes person, and still got the better of thē, that Mahomet had not men to remoue those tents which hee was inforced to carry vp and downe with him for his owne houshold to lye in: fourescore Barbarians (being all attendants and Officers in Court) falling euery night, in this mortal and pestiferous massacre. So that the Emperour for want of Seruants was glad to take chained slaues from the Oare (out of their gallies) and to make them his guard.

What a strange alteration is here of a Court? He that had seene this prince so royally attended, so maiestically attyred, with such God-like reuerence kneeled vnto: so guarded, so followed, so circled round with a Nation in number infinite: Would that Man haue euer thought that such a Prince could haue beene driuen out of his stately Pallaces, and beene glad to lye abroade in the fields? Or that he shold euer submit to such humility

lity, as to put his life into the hands of slaues and miserable Captiues: The onely dispised wretches of his kingdome: the beggerliest: the most discontẽted, the worst-minded to him & his Nation: yea, such whom he knew could haue been glad to cut his throat, to ransome themselues from the boudage and Hell of the gally: Yet euen these most forlorne Creatures, (which before like Oxen were yoaked by the Neckes with Iron) was this great Monarch faine to make much of, and to turne them into his best and fayrest courtiers. So easily and so low can the hand of Heauen pull downe the mightiest vpon earth, and make them stoope euen to the weakest.

The hart being thus sicke, was not the whole body (thinke you) in danger to perish: The eye of the kingdome being so much blemished, did not the Vniuersall land dwell in darkenesse: Was it possible that the Court should pyne, and that the Citties should flourish: No, no, Alasse! Full houses were emptied there of whole families: whole streetes of their households: yea, euen the Citties themselues were left desolate of inhabitants.

Had all the Artifiers in the Land, layed by all other worke, onely to haue made Coffins, they could not all haue builded roomes fast enough, for the dead to dwell in: For sicknesse was euen weary of throwing downe bodies, and Death euen glutted with killing them. Doe but imagine how the World shewed, when all Creatures that were drowned in the Vniuersall flood, lay heaped

together, after the waters were shrunke into the earth, such a Mount Caluary was Barbarie: the carkases of vnburied men were so many, that a far off they might be taken for hills, yea so numberlesse were they, that it seemed as if all the Nations vpon earth had sent their dead thether, and that Barbarie had beene the common Church-yard.

When Vespasian besieged Ierusalem, Famine fed vpon the Cittie within, and warre without, yet did the Iewes choose rather to steale forth, and trust the doubtfull mercy of an Enemie, then to perrish vnder the crueltie of their owne countrymen. At length, such multitudes of them got daily through the gates, that Tytus (to be ridde of them, & fright them from comming) crucified them all, and first the bodies so put to death, round about the Cittie, before their walls, as a terror to those within: so that in the end, (they pressing forth for all this continuallie vppon him) there coulde be found neither wood enough for Crosses to nayle them vpon, nor ground enough whereon to set Crosses.

The like miserie fell vpon this royall kingdom of Barbarie, for the people in it were strooke downe so fast by the Pestilence, that the liuing were not able to inter the dead, neither could there be found ground sufficient enough (about theyr Citties) to affoord them buriall, so that the earth did not (as in other Countries) couer and burie them, but they buried and couered the earth.

Let vs muster the dead together, and take a view of this disordered Armie. In Morocco the cheefest

Cittie

Barbary.

Cittie of Barbarie, died in one yeere ſeauen hundred thouſand Mooꝛes, and ſeauen thouſand ſeauen hundꝛed Jewes., as by bills daily ſent to the Emperour did appeare.

What Nation in the Woꝛlde would not haue trembled, hearing of ſuch an invinſible hoſt marching againſt them, yet Death with one Arrowe ſlew all theſe. In the Cittie of Far, died (the ſame yeere fiue hundꝛed thouſand, beſide thoſe that fell in the Country.

Yea ſo terrible and fierce was Death in his execution of thoſe in Morocco, that in the ſpace of one day and a night, hee ſlewe there with his owne handes, foure thouſand, ſeauen hundꝛed and odde. A mercileſſe and tragicall conqueſt, an ingloꝛious victoꝛie, foꝛ he made them away in their beddes.

O what a number of graues muſt haue beene opened, if all theſe thouſands ſhould haue had their rites of buriall? Howe many fathers foꝛ childꝛen, wiues foꝛ huſbands, ſonnes and daughters foꝛ Parents, and kinſfolkes foꝛ friends, ſhould heere haue wept, if the dead had beene paid their due lamentations? But Mourning heere had ſo waſted it ſelfe, that it quite foꝛgot truly howe to mourne. Sickneſs & griefe grew ſo familiar with men, that to be ridde of ſuch lothſome company, they ſought out Death, when they knewe not where to finde a Graue.

O thou beautiful Kingdome, how couldeſt thou chuſe but looke vnlouely, hauing ſo many childꝛen dead in thy wombe? how could thy body be otherwiſe

wise then vnwholesome, hauing so mortall a dis-
ease running vppon thee, yea, all ouer thee seuen
years together! And O your Citties (that were the
faireſt Daughters to so Noble a Mother; What
shrikes, and soule-afflicting passions did not you
breath forth, seeing all your Marchants (that had
wont to court you bee your loues) and forsaking
you to see your buildinges stand in their wonted
height, but robbed of their wonted ornamentes!
to see Foxes and wilde Beastes (in stead of Men)
inhabiting in your goodliest streetes and meeting
daily vpon your Exchanges! A more then Wid-
dow-like lamentation must you needes put one, to
behold your selues vtterly bereaued of those that
were your best-beloued: What kingdome
(though neuer so farre remoued) is not heauy at the
heart, hearing these sad stories of your sorrow?

——Quis talia fando,
Mirmydonum, Dolopumùe, aut Duri miles Vlissi
Temperet à lachrimis?

Your enimies cannot bee so barbarous as not to
yeeld to your condolement. We will therefore no
longer let out your teares within-doores, nor no
more stand wondring to see all your buildinges
shew like so many hearses; but will survay your
fields abroad, & try if they can afford any better cō-
solation, Alasse they cannot: calamity there tra-
uels vp and downe in the same wretched habily-
ments, that she weares within the walled Citties,
People fly in numbers vp to the Mountaines, to
dwell amongst beastes, and to dispossesse them of
their

their inheritance: they flie thinking Death would not follow them, but hee like a politicke Generall, lay so close in Ambush at their returning backe to their Citties, that he cut them off faster then at the first, & left their bodies to be a pray to those beasts, who not many daies before ranne into their Caues as being afraid of them.

O what a miserie was it, to see high-wayes strewed with dead and infected carkases, as if the whole kingdome had beene sacked, and the enemie had had all the people in execution? A rich and abundant harvest couered the face of the earth, but the Husbandmen in steade of filling their Barnes, were buried in filling vp graues: the fruites which the ground brought forth, shee herselfe did againe deuoure. A strange harvest was it, for Corne was had in without Reapers, it was gathered & sowed againe all at one time, for the Earth did now play the good Housewife, shee saued all to herselfe, and yet euen in sauing it, did she spill all: there were not handes enough to gather the foode, which she out of her plenteous lappe bestowed amongst her children, nor mouthes enough to eate it.

The Country-Lasse sate not nowe singing by her Milking-payle, for the poore beastes ran bellowing vp and downe with swolne vdders, mourning before their Maisters doores, because they could not be eased of their burdens.

The Pestilence hauing thus (like a mercilesse Inuader) destroyed both Citties & Villages, and hauing oftentimes made the greatest Lords in the

kingdome ſtoope to his commaund, and determining to conclude his conqueſt, with taking the Generall ouer ſo great a Nation priſoner, did at the laſt ſet vpon the Emperour Mahamet himſelfe, and with her venemous breath kild him. Which glorious victorie beeing gotten, Death and his Lieftenant (Sickneſs) begamne to ſound a retraite, to march from their walls, and to let them liue in quiet.

No ſooner were their backes turnd, but againe in multitudes came the people downe from the Mountaines, and as all Riuers (when Land-waters haue oppreſt thē) flie to the boſome of the Sea for ſafety, ſo did the Nation of this great Empire, frō all parts thereof come marching ioyfully, (and yet fearefully) to fill vp & make good againe their diſinhabited houſes. What ſtories are now tolde of lamentable Funeralls: what friends and kinſfolkes are miſſing: what ſorrowe there is for ſo much Acquaintance loſt: what gladnes to meete with any, whom they heard or doubted were in their graues: Their Citties doe now looke with cheerefull countenaunces. Streetes are filled with men, houſes with families: euery one applies himſelfe to his former labour, euery Merchant to his trafficke. But behold, in the heate of all this Sunſhine, when no wrinkle could be ſeene in the browe of Heauen, when all was calme, and that men lay ſafely ſnoring on their ſecure pillowes, a ſeconde ſtorme burſt out of the clowdes, a ſecond & a more fearefull: God poured another vengeance on the

heads

heads of this people, he sent Famine to breath vpon them, and to suck the life-blood out of theyr bosoms, so that they that before durst not come neere one another, for feare of beeing infected with the Pestilence, are now ready to lay hold each of other, and to turne their owne bodies into nourishment. The Plague was mercifull to them, in dispatching them quickly out of the world, but this tyrant put thē to lingering deaths. They had once more meate then mouthes, now they had many mouthes and no meate. O Hunger! how pittilesse art thou: a monster thou art of a most straunge condition, for, how small a thing will appease thee, and yet what wilt thou not destroy to satisfie thy rauenous appetite: thou art most cruell to them that most seeke to relieue thee, and when thou hast nothing to feede vpon, thou plaiest the murderer, and eatest vp thy selfe. How tirannous hast thou shewed thy selfe to this great Nation: thou hast heard children crying for bread to their Parents, yet wouldest not relieue them, whilst the Parents went mourning and pyning vp and downe that they wanted foode themselues. Men that were strong of body, didst thou by thy sorcerie bring so lowe, that they could scarce stand on their legs: Women that had fresh blood in theyr cheekes, and were louely to be lookt vppon, didst thou make leane, and turnedst them into Anatomies.

O Famine, thou cruellest executioner of Gods wrath, thou dishonest guest, for into what house soeuer thou commest, thou destroiest all that is set

before thee: thou traytor to Plentie, enuious hag, malicious Witch, that with thy vnsauorie breath blasteth whole fields of Corne: away, gette thee gone, the hand of Heauen keepe thee from landing vpon the English shore, hide thy head for shame, in the graues of those whom most vnmercifullie thou hast slaughtered, bee buried there for euer: for if thou shouldest set footing vpon this little Ile, thou wouldest quickly turne it into a great Land of miserie.

But was the terrible Iudge of the world, satisfied with punishing this people twice in this manner, had their offences towardes him deserued no more blowes? It seemes they had run into a most proude rebellion, and that hee had sworne in his indignation to be reuenged vppon them for it: for loe, the spirit of his rage comes nowe in a consuming fire, it is wrapt vp in clowdes of lightning, and the thunder of it breakes into Ciuill warre. The three sonnes of so great an Emperour, shine now like three Meteors in the firmament, all in steele, their Courts now are Campes, and none are Courtiers but Souldiers. Three Brothers beeing all three Kings, are vp in Armes, only to make of three but one, miserie vpon miserie. They that escaped the stripes of the Pestilence, were eaten to death by Famine, they that saued themselues out of the Iawes of Famine, are now in danger to perish on the Sword.

O noble France, if I should bid thee onely to tell the horror, the terrors, the vnbounded mischiefe

and

and calamity that come marching in with inteſtine Broyles, thou needeſt to ſay nothing, but to open thy boſome, and ſhew thoſe deepe ſcarres which thine owne ſons haue ſet there. There are teares yet in thine eyes, for thoſe ſad funeralls which the Ciuill ſworde prepared. The Low-Countries haue beene in labour a long time, and are not yet deliuered of that Monſter: if they could not expreſſe the paynes and pangs that followe this inward diſeaſe of a kingdome, this griefe about the heart of a Land, this very Earth-quake that hath power to ouer-turne Townes and Towers, wee haue too many leaues in our own Chronicles, ſpotted with the inuenomed Inck of Ciuill diſcord. Too many of our Kings haue beene too famous by that miſerie: too many of our nobleſt Families, haue ſhaden their ancient Houſes by that thunder.

This fire of Diſcention hath now taken holde of Barbarie, a kingdome full of people, abundant in riches, flowing with Arts and traffieke with all Nations: how happy therefore are we, that haue peace in our Citties, and plentie in our fieldes: yet doubtleſſe, our ſinnes are in number infinite, in nature abhominable, wee deſerue as little pardoning as they, yet is our wickednes as blacke and deteſtable as theirs. Let vs therefore ſtray aſide awhile, and by comparing the heauy afflictions which the Diuine Juſtice hath layd vpon other Countries in times paſt, acknowledge an incomprehenſurable loue and mercy of his, to this Iland of ours, nowe in theſe preſent dayes. For in the yere of Chriſt 81.

and in the yeere 188, the breath of the Pestilence was so strong, and so contagious, that in Rome there died daily two thousand people. In the yeere 254, fifteene Prouinces of the Romaine Empyre were almost cõsumed with the like calamitie. Nay in Constantinople the rage of the disease was so great, that in the yeere 530, there fell euery day (for many dayes together) fiue thousand, & sometimes tenne thousand. Within tenne yeeres after that, (which was in Anno 540,) there began an vniuersall plague ouer the whole world, which continued 50 yeeres with hot violence.

In the yeere 1359. so mortall a blow did Death giue to Italy by infection, that there was scarce left tenne of a thousand. And to Rome (in the yere 1521) that shee made graues for a hundred thousand. Millan likewise, Padua and Venice, in the yeres 1576 and 77, opened the Earth to receiue into her womb a hundred thousand dead carkasses, that were left breathlesse in each of those Citties, by the tyrannie of this pestiferous disease. And in Bohemia (beeing but a small kingdome) there died three hundred thousand the same time. In the yeere 1596, fell such a plague in Constantinople, that it strooke downe in sixe moneths space, seauen hundred thousand persons. And this misery was seconded by so terrible a famine, that a penny loafe of bread of English mony, was worth a crowne in golde, by reason of which, the people were worse consumed then before by the Pestilence.

We will now set forth some of our owne home-borne

borne tragedies wrought by the Plague, of which take this as Prologue to the reſt. In the raigne of K. Edward the third, the Infection ſpred it ſelfe in the East Indies, amongſt the Tartars, Saracens and Turks, which had a hand ouer them by the ſpace of 7 yeeres: and this vengeance which was poured downe from heauen vpon this people, ſtrooke their ſoules into ſuch amazement and terror, that many of the Heathen (with the very feare thereof) offred to be conuerted and turne Chriſtians. Shortlie after, by reaſon of Paſſengers from one Prouince to another, the ſame mortall plague was diſperſed in many Chriſtian kingdoms, & (amongſt others) brought into England, where it was ſo forcible all ouer the Land, that not onely men, but alſo beaſts, birdes and fiſhes were ſmitten there-with, and found dead with botches vpõ them. Yea, ſuch a maſſacre did it make amongſt the liuing, that they were ſcarce able to burie the dead. At which time, (with the reſt that then died of the Plague,) Henry Duke of Lancaſter, Blanch Dutcheſſe of Lancaſter, and the Earle of Warwick ended their liues. So that in one yeere, in a little plot of ground of 13 Acres compaſſe (then called Spittle-croft, and nowe the Charter-houſe) were buried 50000. perſons, beſides all them that were then buried in the Church yards & diuers other places. Our late calamities inflicted vpon vs for our ſinnes are freſh in memory, the eyes of many people are yet wet with mourning at burials, the rod is ſtil held ouer vs, the ſtripes of it are euen nowe to bee ſeene ſticking in our fleſh.

Yet